



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**SAMPLING DESIGNS AND ESTIMATION METHODS FOR SEDIMENT
LOAD PREDICTION IN TWO RIVERS IN IRAN AND
MALAYSIA**

MAHMOOD ARABKHEDRI

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By

MAHMOOD ARABKHEDRI

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, University Putra
Malaysia, in Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of Doctor of
Philosophy**

July 2009



THIS DISSERTATION IS DEDICATED
TO

MY WIFE, MY LOVELY CHILDREN,
MY MOTHER AND THE SOUL OF MY FATHER,

AND
MY FAMILY

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of University Putra Malaysia in
Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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Chairman: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lai Food See, PhD

Faculty: Forestry

The effect of sampling designs and estimation methods on the accuracy of predicted total suspended sediment load (SSL) were evaluated in Gorgan-Rood and Sg. Pangsun, two rivers in Iran and Malaysia respectively. Concerning the rare clustered nature of high load periods during transport, adaptive cluster sampling (ACS) was conducted. Nevertheless, some adaptations were made because continuous sediment records of study rivers are time-scale populations rather than ordinary spatial-scale in previous studies. This study suggests the use of forward neighborhood relation instead of symmetric and the use of flow duration curve instead of ranking of initial samples.

In order to evaluate the ACS in river sediment estimation, 12000 sample sets were generated in each river which categorized in scenarios differed in terms of neighborhood relation, flow discharge threshold, cluster size and initial sample size. For all sample sets, total SSLs were predicted using the

modified Hansen-Hurwitz (HH) and Horvitz-Thompson (HT) estimators which then were statistically evaluated. The results suggests that ACS can not estimate sediment load properly when sample size is smaller than 15 % of the size of respective population. HT estimator showed a better performance than the HH. Moreover, employing forward neighborhood relation instead of symmetric showed underestimations less than 5%.

In the evaluation of sampling designs and estimation methods on total SSL, 14 estimation approaches were set up. 450 sample sets were generated in accordance to three sampling designs- adaptive (Ada), selection at list time (SALT) and calendar-based (Cal) - under three predetermined sample size categories in each study river. In the next step, 4200 total SSLs were estimated using four types of sediment rating curves (SRCs), four estimators of survey sampling, and artificial neural network (ANN) estimation methods.

The results differed for the two study basins. While, all combinations of SRCs and calendar-based sample sets (SRCs-Cal approaches) poorly estimated the observed SSL in Gorgan-Rood even with 70% error, they produced less than 6% error in Sg. Pangsun. In Gorgan-Rood, the SRCs-Ada approaches increased >10% the total SSLs compared to the SRCs-Cal. The results suggest that the corrected SRC with parametric correction factor and logged mean load within discharge classes in adaptive sample sets gave the most accurate estimates. The estimates obtained from adaptive sample sets showed higher variance, but overall their results were more accurate based on the root mean square error.

ANN-Cal approach produced less than 3.8% error for Gorgan-Rood compared to the other methods, whereas for Sg. Pangsun, the result was poorer than SRCs. ANN-Ada did not improve the obtained SSL estimates.

Among the four survey sampling approaches, SALT produced the best estimates ($<0.3\%$ error) for Sg. Pangsun followed by the ACS-HT, ACS-HH and SRS. In Gorgan-Rood, ACS-HT gave most accurate result only for the large sample sets.

Choosing a sampling design and an estimator in a study river are complicated issues that require considering some technical and administrative constraints. Although ACS can provide better sample sets for the adoption of SRCs and ANN even with lower cost, three important limitations were addressed in the conclusion part. This study recommends the use of more elaborate neighborhood patterns for further study instead of the simple neighborhood adopted. Testing ACS in basins with long continuous records and variety of conditions regarding the discharge-sediment concentration relation is suggested.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia
sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doctor Philosophy

**PENGARUH REKABENTUK DAN KAEDAH PENGANGGARAN
PERSAMPELAN TERHADAP KETEPATAN ANGGARAN MUATAN
SEDIMEN DI SUNGAI TERPILIH DI IRAN DAN MALAYSIA**

Oleh

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Objektif utama kajian ini ialah untuk menilai fungsi-fungsi ini terhadap ketepatan penganggaran jumlah muatan sedimen melalui gabungan konsep tinjauan persampelan dan hidrologi. Kajian ini dijalankan menggunakan dua set rekod populasi sedimen selangar untuk Sungai Gorgan-Rood di Iran dan Sungai Pangsun di Malaysia.

Kajian lepas telah menunjukkan ketidakberkesanan rekabentuk persampelan berasaskan kalendar untuk memberikan set sampel yang baik. Oleh itu, teknik Persampelan Kelompok Adaptif (PKA) telah digunakan di kawasan persampelan berkaitan dengan tempoh kecenderungan pelonggokan muatan tinggi semasa pengaliran sungai. Dalam rekabentuk ini, sampel tambahan di kawasan persekitaran unit-unit penting (mengandungi muatan sedimen tinggi) turut diambil dan dimasukkan ke dalam set sampel). PKA boleh digunakan untuk penganggaran JHS menggunakan pekali Hansen-Hurwitz (HH) dan Horvitz-Thompson (HT) yang telah diperbaiki.

Memandangkan PKA telah diaplikasikan secara eksklusif dalam kajian permasalahan skala-sekitaran sehingga sekarang, beberapa adaptasi telah dibuat untuk menggunakan rekabentuk ini bagi menangani permasalahan skala-selang masa seperti dalam kajian ini iaitu pengangkutan sedimen dalam sungai. Sebagai contoh, kajian ini mencadangkan penggunaan hubungan kejiranan ke depan berbanding simetri dan juga penggunaan lengkok selang aliran berbanding pentertiban sampel.

Untuk menilai keberkesanan PKA dalam penganggaran sedimen, 12 senario yang berbeza dari segi nilai asas aliran luahan dan saiz kelompok telah ditakrifkan mengikut hubungan simetri dan kejiranan ke depan bagi setiap populasi kajian. Setiap senario melibatkan 500 set sampel yang dipecahkan kepada sepuluh rawatan (berbeza mengikut sampel saiz) setiap satu dengan 50 replika. Ketidaksaksamaan, kejituan dan ketepatan setiap senario dan rawatan dinilai secara statistik. Keputusan menunjukkan HT adalah lebih baik berbanding HH dengan memberikan anggaran yang secara relatifnya lebih saksama dan tepat serta nilai pekali variasi yang kecil. Ini mencadangkan bahawa untuk kajian sedimen sungai, hubungan kejiranan simetri boleh digantikan dengan kejiranan ke depan tanpa menonjolkan ciri ketidaksaksamaan yang ketara. Didapati, senario dengan nilai asas luahan bulanan berserta saiz kelompok tidak terhad untuk Gorgan-Rood dan senario dengan nilai asas luahan tahunan dengan kelompok bersaiz 40 untuk Sg. Pangsun memberikan keputusan yang terbaik.

Dalam penilaian rekabentuk persampelan dan kaedah penganggaran muatan sedimen terampai (MST), 14 pendekatan penganggaran telah

digunakan. 150 sampel set telah dipilih bersepadanan dengan tiga jenis rekabentuk persampelan; adaptif, Pemilihan Pada Masa Tersenarai (PPMT) dan rekabentuk berasaskan kalendar. Set sampel bagi setiap rekabentuk ini dikumpulkan kepada tiga kategori sampel saiz yang telah ditentukan dengan setiapnya mengandungi 50 replika. Pada langkah seterusnya, muatan sedimen dianggarkan menggunakan empat jenis Lengkok Kadar Sedimen (LKS), empat penganggar persampelan dan juga kaedah anggaran Rangkaian Neural Buatan (RNB). Keputusan menunjukkan dua kesudahan berbeza untuk kedua-dua lembangan. Didapati kesemua LKS-Kalendar memberikan nilai anggaran MST yang jauh menyimpang untuk Gorgan-Rood tetapi memberikan anggaran yang saksama untuk Sungai Pangsun. Pendekatan LKS-adaptif meningkatkan jumlah anggaran MST pada Sungai Gorgan-Rood tetapi tiada perubahan ketara di Sungai Pangsun. Selanjutnya, keputusan ini menunjukkan bahawa aplikasi LKS dalam rekabentuk persampelan adaptif bagi kedua-dua teknik faktor pembetulan parametrik dan log purata muatan dalam selang luahan dalam sampel set adaptif memberikan hasil yang lebih tepat untuk Gorgan-Rood.

Didapati juga RNB telah memberikan anggaran yang kukuh untuk Gorgan-Rood berbanding kaedah lain tetapi bagi Sungai Pangsun kaedah ini adalah lebih lemah berbanding LKS. Di samping itu, RNB-Adaptif tidak memperbaiki ketepatan anggaran MST yang diperolehi.

Kesimpulannya, antara ketiga-tiga pendekatan tinjauan persampelan, PPMT menghasilkan keputusan yang kukuh untuk Sungai Pangsun diikuti PKA dan Persampelan Rawak Ringkas. Untuk Gorgan-Rood, PKA-HT memberikan

keputusan yang lebih baik berbanding pendekatan persampelan lain hanya pada set sampel yang besar.

Beberapa implikasi daripada pengukuran beberapa sampel semasa tepoh muatan tinggi dengan menggunakan PKA turut dicadangkan pada bahagian kesimpulan. Sebagai tambahan, beberapa kriteria pemilihan rekabentuk persampelan dan penganggar muatan sedimen bagi sungai yang dikaji turut dinyatakan.

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I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 21 July 2009 to conduct the final examination of Mahmood Arabkhedri on his thesis entitled "Sampling Designs and Estimation Methods for Sediment Load Prediction in Two Rivers in Iran and Malaysia" in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Doctor of Philosophy.

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DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at UPM or other institutions.



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Date: 17 Aug. 2009

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	iii
ABSTRAK	vi
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	x
DECLARATION	xiii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	xiv
LIST OF TABLES	xvii
LIST OF FIGURES	xx
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xxiii
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 The Need for Research on Sedimentation	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	2
1.3 Objectives	8
1.4 Thesis Structure	9
CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW	11
2.1 Introduction	11
2.2 River Discharge- Sediment Output Relationship	11
2.3 Suspended Sediment Sampling In Rivers	13
2.4 Sampling Designs	15
2.4.1 Calendar-Based or Fixed-Interval	15
2.4.2 Stratified Random Sampling	17
2.4.3 Probability Proportional to Size	20
2.4.4 Adaptive Cluster Sampling	21
2.5 Suspended Sediment Load Estimators	25
2.6 Sediment Rating Curve	25
2.6.1 Bias in Rating Curve	26
2.6.2 Transformation Bias	27
2.7 Bias Modification Methods	29
2.7.1 Ratio Correction Factor	29
2.7.2 Parametric Correction Factor	29
2.7.3 Non-Parametric Correction Factor	30
2.7.4 Minimum Variance Unbiased Estimate	32
2.7.5 Logged Mean Loads within Discharge Classes	32
2.7.6 Case studies on Modified Rating Curves	32
2.8 Survey Sampling Estimators	38
2.8.1 Simple Random Sampling Estimator	39
2.8.2 Systematic Sampling Estimator	39



2.8.3 Stratified Random Sampling Estimator	40
2.8.4 Selection At List Time (SALT) Estimator	40
2.8.5 Adaptive Cluster Sampling Estimators	42
2.8.6 Ratio Estimators	43
2.8.7 Case Studies using the Survey Sampling Designs and Estimators	45
2.9 Artificial Neural Network	48
2.9.1 Brief Description of ANN structure	49
2.9.2 Training Algorithms for Forecasting Purposes	51
2.9.3 Application of ANN in Erosion and Sediment Estimation	53
2.10 Summary	57
CHAPTER 3 STUDY BASINS AND DATA SETS	59
3.1 Introduction	59
3.2 Study Areas	59
3.2.1 Sungai Pangsun	60
3.2.1 Gorgan-Rood River	62
3.3 Study Data sets	66
3.4 Calculating Observed Sediment Load	68
3.5 Data Analysis	68
3.6 Summary	72
CHAPTER 4 ADAPTIVE CLUSTER SAMPLING FOR SEDIMENT LOAD ESTIMATION IN THE STUDY RIVERS	73
4.1 Introduction	73
4.2 Methods	73
4.2.1 Input Information	73
4.2.2 Adaptive Cluster Sampling Design Flowcharts	76
4.2.3 Sampling Plans in Study Basins	78
4.2.4 Comparison and Evaluation of Results	89
4.3 Results	92
4.3.1 Scenarios with Symmetric Neighborhood Relation in Gorgan-Rood	93
4.3.2 Scenarios with Forward Neighborhood Relation in Gorgan-Rood	106
4.3.3 Scenarios with Symmetric Neighborhood Relation in Sungai Pangsun	110
4.3.4 Scenarios with Forward Neighborhood Relation in Sungai Pangsun	115

4.4 Discussion	121
4.4.1 The Effects of Initial Sample Size	121
4.4.2 The Effect of Using Estimators	122
4.4.3 The Effect of Discharge Threshold Magnitude	123
4.4.4 The Effect of Monthly Thresholds	123
4.4.5 The Effect of Cluster Restriction	125
4.4.6 The Effect of Forward Neighborhood Relation	125
4.4.7 Selected Scenarios	129
4.5 Summary	130
CHAPTER 5 COMPARISON OF SEDIMENT LOAD ESTIMATION APPROACHES IN THE STUDY RIVERS	132
5.1 Introduction	132
5.2 Methods	132
5.2.1 Sampling Plans for Study Populations	133
5.2.2 Sediment Load Computation Methods or Estimators	137
5.2.3 Statistical Methods for Comparison	144
5.3 Results	145
5.3.1 Gorgan-Rood	145
5.3.2 Sungai Pangsun	159
5.4 Discussion	172
5.4.1 Discussion on the Sediment Rating Curves Results	172
5.4.2 Discussion on the Survey Sampling Results	179
5.4.3 Discussion on Artificial Neural Network Results	184
5.5 Summary	186
CHAPTER 6 CONCLUSION	188
6.1 Implications and Limitations	193
6.2 Recommendations for Further Research	196
REFERENCES	198
APPENDICES	206
BIODATA OF STUDENT	228
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS	236

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
2.1. Adaptation of some survey sampling technical terms for sediment sampling in river	17
2.2. Some studies using adaptive sampling	24
2.3. Bias modification methods for conventional sediment rating curve	31
2.4. Studies on sediment rating modification methods with equal probability sample sets	34
2.5. Studies on sediment rating modification methods with whole population	36
2.6. Studies on sediment rating modification methods with unequal probability sample sets	37
2.7. Case studies using the survey sampling designs and estimators	45
2.8. Case studies using ratio and interpolation estimators	47
2.9. Objective of sediment estimation studies by ANN	54
2.10. Auxiliary variables used for sediment estimation studies by ANN	57
3.1. Watershed characteristics of study basins	61
3.2. Description of data sets	67
3.3. Some discharge and sediment descriptive statistics for the study basins	68
3.4. Possible sediment estimation approaches using selected estimation methods and sampling designs	69
4.1. The initial sample sizes for adaptive sampling in the two study rivers	80
4.2. Discharges exceeding selected thresholds using flow duration curves in study basins	81
4.3. Selected sizes of cluster for two study basins	84
4.4. Number of clusters and additional adaptive samples in Gorgan-Rood	84
4.5. Number of clusters and additional adaptive samples in Sg. Pangsun	84
4.6. List of all scenarios and treatments, their average number of cluster and final adaptive sample size in Gorgan-Rood*	87
4.7. List of all scenarios and treatments, their average number of cluster and final adaptive sample size in Sg. Pangsun*	88
4.8. Descriptive statistics for sample sets and estimated sediment loads for scenario Sym-UCS-YFDC10, Gorgan-Rood*	95
4.9. Descriptive statistics obtained for six ACS scenarios in Gorgan-Rood with symmetric neighborhood*	99

Table	Page
4.10. Descriptive statistics obtained for six ACS scenarios in Gorgan-Rood with forward neighborhood relation*	107
4.11. Descriptive statistics obtained for six ACS scenarios in Sg. Pangsun with symmetric neighborhood relation*	112
4.12. Descriptive statistics obtained for six ACS scenarios in Sg. Pangsun with forward neighborhood relation	117
4.13. Average percentages of rising and falling limbs in Gorgan-Rood and Pangsun	128
5.1. Selected sizes of sample sets using ACS for study basins	136
5.2. Sampling steps of SALT for sampling in study rivers*	138
5.3. Size of taken sample sets for study basins by SALT	138
5.4. An example of results using the automated regularization in MATLAB*	144
5.5. Descriptive statistics of estimated loads for small sample sets in Gorgan-Rood	147
5.6. Descriptive statistics of estimated loads for medium sample sets in Gorgan-Rood	148
5.7. Descriptive statistics of estimated loads for large sample sets in Gorgan-Rood	149
5.8. Intercept (a) and slope (b) of rating curves ($Q_s=aQ_{wb}$) in Gorgan-Rood	153
5.9. Properties of ANN negative estimations for Gorgan-Rood	158
5.10. Descriptive statistics of estimated loads for the small sample sets in Sg. Pangsun	163
5.11. Descriptive statistics of estimated loads for the medium sample sets in Sg. Pangsun	163
5.12. Descriptive statistics of estimated loads for the large sample sets in Sg. Pangsun	164
5.13. Intercept (a) and slope (b) of rating curves ($Q_s=aQ_{wb}$) in Sg. Pangsun	165
5.14. Properties of the negative estimations produced by the use of ANN for Sg. Pangsun	170
5.15. Correlation coefficients of discharge and concentration for original data sets without logarithmic transformation	174
5.16. Comparison of estimated load by sediment rating curves with previous studies	177
5.17. Percent of stream flow volume and sediment load passed through the study gauging sites	181
5.18. The ability of SALT approach for load estimation in Sg. Pangsun with very small sample sizes compared to the small, medium and large sample sets	182

Table	Page
5.19. Comparison of estimated load by survey sampling approaches with previous studies	183
5.20. Comparing the performance of ANN for sediment estimation in this study and the literature	185

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
1.1. Process flowchart for suspended sediment load estimating	4
2.1. Anti-clockwise (A) and Clockwise (B) loops, Redrawn from Vanoni (1980)	13
2.2. Symmetric neighborhood relation in a string population	21
2.3. Symmetric neighborhood relation in a two dimensional population	22
2.4. An illustrative example for ACS in a small string population	23
2.5. An individual processing unit in artificial neural network	50
2.6. Artificial neural network architecture	50
3.1. Location of Sg. Pangsun in Peninsular Malaysia	61
3.2. Total Suspended Solid Analyzer, data logger and two sensors installed at the gauging place in Sg. Pangsun (Geoffery, 1999)	62
3.3. Mean monthly rainfall in Station Ampangan Ulu Langat, 1982-97 (A) and monthly rainfall in Sg. Pangsun, May 1997-Apr. 1998 (B), redrawn based on Geoffery (1999)	63
3.4. Location of Gorgan-Rood gauging site in Iran	63
3.5. A scene of lower Gorgan-Rood near Town Gonbad-e-Ghabous before study gauging site (Photo by Dr. Javad Varvanie)	65
3.6. Gauging site in Gorgan-Rood at Ghazaghly, (Photo by Golestan Water Authority)	66
4.1. Effect of discharge threshold magnitude on cluster size in a storm hydrograph	75
4.2. Flow chart of adaptive cluster sampling with forward neighborhood	77
4.3. Flow chart of adaptive cluster sampling with symmetric neighborhood	79
4.4. Yearly flow duration curves for study rivers and the selected discharge thresholds	80
4.5. The concept and number of scenarios, treatments, sample sets and estimates in each basin	85
4.6. Schematic concepts of biasness, precision and accuracy; A: Accurate (unbiased and precise), B: Unbiased (but not precise), C: Precise (but biased)	92
4.7. Estimated loads for Sym-UCS-YFDC10 scenario, Gorgan-Rod, HH =Hansen-Hurwitz, HT=Horvitz-Thompson	94
4.8. Comparison of HH and HT for scenario Sym-UCS-YFDC10 in Gorgan-Rood	97
4.9. Number of additional adaptive samples vs. final sample size for six scenarios with symmetric neighborhood in Gorgan-Rood	100

Figure	Page
4.10. Comparison of scenarios with symmetric neighborhood in Gorgan-Rood with respect to NRMSD	100
4.11. The number of additional adaptive samples vs. final sample size for six scenarios with forward neighborhood relation in Gorgan-Rood	108
4.12. Comparison of scenarios with forward neighborhood relation in Gorgan-Rood with respect to NRMSD	108
4.13. The number of additional adaptive samples versus final sample size for six scenarios with symmetric neighborhood relation in Sg. Pangsun	113
4.14. Comparison of scenarios with symmetric neighborhood relation in Sg. Pangsun with respect to NRMSD	113
4.15. The number of additional adaptive samples versus final sample size for six scenarios with forward neighborhood relation in Sg. Pangsun	118
4.16. Comparison of scenarios with forward neighborhood relation in Sg. Pangsun with respect to NRMSD	118
4.17. The effect of monthly vs. yearly discharge threshold on number of additional samples, Gorgan-Rood	124
4.18. Comparison of symmetric and forward neighborhood relations on the number of additional samples; shown by arrows' length, Sg. Pangsun	126
4.19. Concept of restricted against unrestricted cluster sizes with the forward neighborhood relation, Sg. Pangsun	129
5.1. Sampling designs, estimators, and estimation approaches	133
5.2. The variations of SSE, SSW and the number of parameters during training a sample network with "trainbr" function	142
5.3. Scatter plot of estimates for the small sample sets in Gorgan-Rood	146
5.4. Scatter plot of estimates for the medium sample sets in Gorgan-Rood	146
5.5. Scatter plot of estimates for the large sample sets in Gorgan-Rood	147
5.6. Four types of rating curve with the average intercept and slope for the large sample sets in Gorgan-Rood, calendar-based (A) and adaptive (B)	154
5.7. Close approximations of observed loads and ANN derived loads for a sample set for Gorgan-Rood	156
5.8. Poor relation between the ANN derived loads and the observed loads for Gorgan-Rood population data set	157
5.9. Several negative load estimations using ANN in Gorgan-Rood	157
5.10. Effect of sample size and sampling design on NRMSD in Gorgan-Rood	159
5.11. Scatter plot of estimates for the small sample sets in Sg. Pangsun	160

Figure	Page
5.11. Scatter plot of estimates for the small sample sets in Sg. Pangsun	160
5.12. Scatter plot of estimates for the medium sample sets in Sg. Pangsun	161
5.13. Scatter plot of estimates for the large sample sets in Sg. Pangsun	161
5.14. CSRC and LMLWDC of Sg. Pangsun each with the average intercept and slope (LMLWDC curve has exactly overlaid the CSRC)	167
5.15. Good approximation of the observed loads by ANN for a sample set for Sg. Pangsun	169
5.16. Poor relation of estimated loads by ANN and the observed loads for population data set for Sg. Pangsun	169
5.17. Negative load estimations produced by ANN for Pangsun	170
5.18. Effect of sample size and sample size on the NRMSD	171
5.19. Iso-concentration lines on sediment scatter plot for Gorgan-Rood River, Iran	173
5.20. Iso-concentration lines on sediment scatter plot for Sg. Pangsun, Malaysia	173
5.21. Cumulative percentage of stream flow and sediment load duration curves in study basins	180

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Notation
ACS	Adaptive cluster sampling
Ada-	Adaptive sample set
ANN	Artificial neural network
Cal-	Calendar-based sample set
CS	Cluster size
CSRC	Conventional sediment rating curve
CV	Coefficient of variation
DT	Discharge threshold
FDC	Flow duration curve
For	Forward neighborhood relation
HH	Hansen-Hurwitz estimator
HT	Horvitz-Thompson estimator
ID	Instantaneous discharge
LMLWDC	Logged mean load within discharge classes
MFDC	Monthly flow duration curve
MFDC2.5	Discharges exceed 2.5% of time in corresponding months, for Pangsun
MFDC20	Discharges exceed 20% of time in corresponding months, for Gorgan-Rood
MSD	Mean square deviation
MVUE	Minimum variance unbiased estimate
NPCF	Non-parametric correction factor
NRMSD	Normalized root mean square deviation
PCF	Parametric correction factor
R2V	Raster to vector (a software)
SALT	Selection at list time
Sg.	Sungai, Malay term for River
SN	Sample number
SRC	Sediment rating curve
SSC	Suspended sediment concentration
SSL	Suspended sediment load
SSY	Suspended sediment yield
Sym	Symmetric neighborhood relation
UCS	Unrestricted cluster size
USGS	United states geological survey
YDT	Yearly discharge threshold
YFDC	Yearly flow duration curve
YFDC1.25	A discharge exceeds 1.25% of time, 208.6 L/s for Pangsun
YFDC10	A discharge exceeds 10% of time, 37.6 CMS for Gorgan-Rood
YFDC2.5	A discharge exceeds 2.5% of time, 170.7 L/s for Pangsun
YFDC20	A discharge exceeds 20% of time, 23.6 CMS for Gorgan-Rood
YFDC5	A discharge exceeds 5% of time , 57.3 CMS for Gorgan-Rood and 142.5 L/s for Pangsun

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Need for Research on Sedimentation

The increasing trend of soil erosion rate and subsequent sediment transport in rivers are serious environmental issues worldwide, which were frequently reported over the years (Evans, 2006). Sedimentation processes (erosion, transportation and deposition) cause various problems in watershed, stream, reservoir, estuary and coasts. One obvious problem with sediment deposition is the reduction of storage capacity of reservoirs. In accordance with the World Bank report in 1987, on average, 1% of the water storing capacity of the globe's reservoirs is being lost annually (Morris and Fan, 1998). Replacing the lost water storage by constructing new reservoirs could cost several billion dollars each year.

The increasing trend of erosion rate and sediment reaching streams in Malaysia and Iran were acknowledged by various researchers (Arabkhedri and Jafariardakani, 2002; Lai et al., 1995). High sedimentation rates are mostly due to substantial land use changes without environmental consideration in these countries. In some large catchments of Malaysia and Iran, suspended sediment yield (SSY) greater than 2000 t/km²/yr had been reported (JAMAB, 1999; Lai et al., 1996). The high amount of sediment yield at a catchment outlet indicates severe erosion upstream.

The sediment load of streams consists of i) dissolved load, ii) suspended load and iii) bedload. Fine suspended sediments usually constitute a